SI. No.	State	District/Area
16.	NCT of Delhi	South-West, South, North-West, East and North-East, Central (including Najafgarh drain basin area).

Completion of Irrigation Project

298. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced a two-pronged strategy to complete the 26 pending irrigation project on a fast track basis to benefit 17.6 lakhs acres and stabilize the existing cut of 41.54 acres;

(b) if so, whether any action plan in this regard has been worked out;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) by when it is likely to be implemented and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Central Government has not announced a two pronged strategy to complete 26 pending irrigation projects on a fast track basis to benefit 17.6 lakh acre. However, Government of Andhra Pradesh has announced a strategy to complete 26 irrigation projects to benefit 17.6 lakh acre on fast track in a phased manner. As per the action plan of the State Government 8 irrigation project are programmed to be completed in two years and 18 irrigation project in 5 years.

Diversion of water from Mullaperiyar Dam

299. SHRI A. VIAJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESORUCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of any diversion of water through the Erachipalam duct of the Mullaperiyar Dam unauthorisedly by the neighbouring State;

(b) whether any study has been initiated on the leakage and the unauthorised diversion of water;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether action will be taken to protect the dam and the unauthorised diversion of water, if any, from the Mullaperiyar Dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESORUCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) As reported by the Government of Tamil Nadu, there is no unauthorised diversion of water from the Periyar reservoir of Mullaperiyar Dam through Erachipalam. As per the inter-State agreement between Tamil Nadu and Kerala, Tamil Nadu is entitled to divert and use all the waters from the Periyar reservoir. Before the construction of the Hydro Power House, the water from Periyar reservoir was drawn through natural river course via Erachipalam. After the Construction of the Power House and Forebay dam, the water is being drawn through penstock pipes. However, whenever Power House is temporarily shut down, the water diverted through natural river course through a bye pass provided in the Forebay dam via, Erachipalam. The Mullaperiyar Dam is owned by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the maintenance of the dam is the responsibility of the State Government. The Government of Tamil Nadu has reported that there is no leakage found in the dam.

River linking Project

300. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the river linking project to solve the drinking water problem of millions of people in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal to divert the rivers of Western Ghats to eastern direction; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to declare rivers of Western Ghats as cultural heritage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) National Water Development Agency (NWDA) based on water balance and prefeasibility studies carried out by it, has identified 30 links (14 under Himalayan component) and 16 under Peninsular Component) for preparation of feasibility reports (FRs).